

The Crucible



The quarterly newsletter of the Minor Metals Trade Association

Winter 2006/7

MMTA opens the doors at new London office

March 1st was a big day for the MMTA. After 33 years of being run on a voluntary basis, the association now has dedicated offices in central London and its first full-time employee.

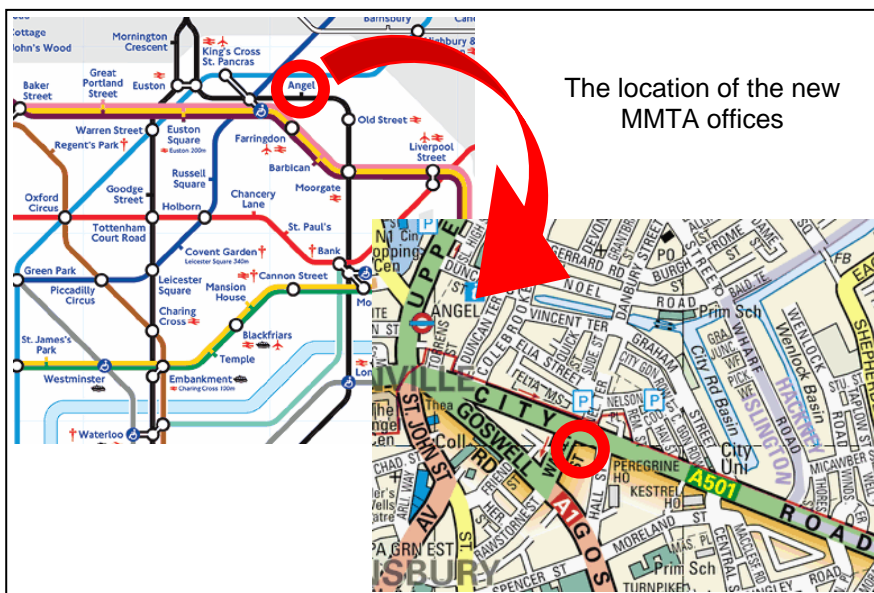
To date the MMTA has been the central reference point for the trade in minor metals but with current unprecedented proliferation of minor metals applications, the opportunity exists to become a centre of excellence in the economics and provision of basic advice on the subject.

The exciting new base for MMTA operations is located near Angel underground station (see map below) and is just a short taxi-ride from both City Airport and the soon-to-be-opened Eurostar terminal at King's Cross train station.

Besides hosting the association's reception desk, the offices have meeting facilities available for use by MMTA members and will over time develop an archive of information concerning all aspects of minor metals.

The MMTA's first executive, Roland Chavasse, previously worked at SFP Metals (UK) Ltd, focusing on cobalt, cadmium and titanium sponge. Since 2004 Roland has worked on the MMTA Contracts Committee.

In his welcoming talk at the February open meeting at the Bilderberg Parkhotel in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Roland urged members to come forward with their suggestions on how the MMTA can help its members and maintain its position as the minor metals industry's foremost trade body.



The location of the new MMTA offices

REACH WORKSHOP 14th March 2007

REACHReady will hold a subsidised REACH workshop in London on 14th March.

To attend please contact secretary@mmta.co.uk or call +44 207 833 0237.

£45 per head to MMTA members. Limited places. Lunch included (details p.4).

Please feel free to visit our new offices and our new executive!

The contact details are:
MMTA, 326A City Road, Angel Gate, London, UK, EC1V 2PT.
Tel: +44 (0)207 833 0237.
executive@mmta.co.uk

The MMTA will be hosting an open day at the new offices on 14th June 2007. Details to follow.

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MMTA Estonia 2007

The MMTA's 2007 conference is set to be the MMTA's largest ever with over 120 attendees representing 70 companies from 18 countries.

Can your business afford not to attend?

Booking deadline approaches for MMTA's Tallinn Conference on April 25-27th

MMTA's International Minor Metals Conference on April 25-27 2007 at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Tallinn, Estonia.

The MMTA's 2007 conference is set to be our largest ever with over 120 attendees representing 70 companies from 18 countries.

Please note that room bookings in the **Radisson SAS Hotel** are approaching capacity. Please be advised to book your rooms as soon as possible (Tel: +372 682 35 00, Fax: +372 682 35 01).

If you have not already registered to attend the **AGM Dinner** on Thursday 26th April please contact the MMTA Secretariat as soon as possible as places are strictly limited.

The MMTA is very pleased to announce the sponsorship of the AGM Dinner by C Steinweg Handelsveem B.V. and the sponsorship of Thursday's lunch by Alfred H. Knight.

The conference aims to focus on emerging technologies in electronics, automotive, energy and terrestrial uses, as well as the role of renewable resources and energy. These are all areas where there is the potential for exciting growth in demand for a wide range of minor metals.



The programme includes:



Tallinn's historic city centre

"Supply chain challenges in the aerospace industry", by Leon Grabowski, **Rolls Royce Plc.**, UK;

"An overview of the rare earths industry", by Shigeo Nakamura, President, **Advanced Material Japan Corp.**, Japan;

"The outlook for the electronics industry in Europe - the impact of legislation", by Wolfgang Ihme, Director, **RCC Ltd**, Switzerland;

"Indium and gallium – new applications and the challenges of regulations", by Emily Giasone, Account Specialist Metals & Chemicals, **Indium Corporation of America**, USA

"A new source of bismuth using MRT", by Steve Izatt, President & CEO, **IBC Advanced Technologies Inc.**, USA;

"A presentation on antimony", by Geert Krekel, Managing Director, **Campine N.V.**, Belgium;

Additionally, on Wednesday April 25, **Toma Inc.** is hosting a small group to visit its plant during the day. Toma is a processor of rhenium-containing scrap in various forms, recovering pure rhenium in the form of ammonium perrhenate. Space on this visit is extremely limited - please contact us for more information.

To attend the conference:

There is a special rate for companies with 3 or more delegates attending. For details of this offer please contact Metal Events (Tel: +44 (0) 20 7659 2022) for details of group rates. The rate for single bookings is £750.00

To book please email Metal Events at sales@metalevents.com or visit www.metalevents.com.

Metal Events Ltd
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Chairman Charles Swindon's Question and Answer at recent CBI Conference



Charles Swindon: "I would like to ask the Shadow Chancellor why, in recent events and votes in Brussels in the Parliament, the Conservative MEPs consistently vote more and more out of line with the European MEPs of the Conservatives throughout the EU? Is that because some of the issues that you spent so long on this morning, namely that the environment and pollution are of greater significance to you than the issues of competition and trust in the EU and promoting business? Perhaps this issue of the environment that you refer to so much is what you believe to be the great vote winner but I believe that European business will prove that not

be the case."

The response from George Osborne (pictured right) was that UK Conservative party MEPs did vote in favour of REACH.



George Osborne is the Conservative Party's Shadow Chancellor in the UK Parliament.

Forthcoming Dates for you Diary:

REACH workshop, London	14 th March 2007
MMTA Conference 2007, Tallinn, Estonia	25 th -27 th April 2007
Plant open day at Avon Metals, Gloucester, UK	16 th May 2007
MMTA London Office open day	14 th June 2007
MMTA Summer event	(tbc) July 2007
Anniversary Dinner, London	9 th October 2007
Quarterly lunch, Düsseldorf, Germany	(tbc) November 2007
General Meeting & Christmas Lunch (venue to be confirmed)	7 th December 2007

AVON

OPEN DAY AT AVON METALS

Gloucester, UK, 16th May 2007

Avon Metals, one of the MMTA's newest members, is generously hosting an open day to view their plant and meet their staff. They manufacture aluminium hardeners and secondary ingots, including a range of high-grade and super alloys. Minor metals used & traded by Avon metals include titanium, chromium, magnesium, manganese flake, silicon, strontium, niobium, rhenium, vanadium, zirconium and cobalt.

To reserve your place please contact the MMTA.

MMTA Committee member Anthony Lipmann's letter to *The Independent* newspaper (published 27th January 2007)

"Sir: Your front page "Made in Britain, dumped in China" shows where the mistaken dogmas of the green policies ultimately lead us – to hypocrisy and double standards.

As Chairman of the Minor Metals Trade Association from 2003-2006 I battled on behalf of our metals business against the implementation of REACH, The EU Chemical Directive, which seeks to regulate from cradle to grave every substance that enters the clean room of the EU. We took our story to Strasbourg and were listened to by the full cohort of UKIP MEPs and one Liberal of scientific bent.

We tried to make the case that the EU Chemical directive which seeks to save lives by making Europe clean, would just make China and other poorer countries dirty. We said that the metals business is a cleaner way of recycling as we naturally husband that which has value. We said that China would pay the price for our moral high ground as we did not mind importing manufactured goods that were produced with lower environmental standards abroad, provided that we could keep the EU clean. As a result we have not just exported jobs but out morals too.

Anthony Lipmann, Chairman MMTA 2003-06."

REACHReady workshop 14th March 2007

Chemical Industries Association, 5th Floor, King's Buildings, Smith Square, London SW1P 3JJ (www.cia.org.uk)

11.00	Welcome	
11.00-11.15	Update on REACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the legal text to the RIPs • Implementation timeline
11.15-11.45	Obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturers & Importers • Downstream users • How the system is intended to work
11.45-12.00	Question and Answer	
12.00-12.15	Compliance Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checklist of actions • Management check • Product compliance check • Supply chain check
12.15-12.45	Cost Estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous estimates • 'Ready Reckoner' • Key variables – mitigating costs
12.45-13.30	Lunch with Q&A	
13.30-14.30	Workshop Examples	Interactive examples to illustrate
15.00	Close	

Chairman@mmta.co.uk	- Charles Swindon, RJH Trading
ViceChairman@mmta.co.uk	- Tom Abrahams, Wogen Resources
Treasury@mmta.co.uk	- Roy Walton, Darton Commodities
Executive@mmta.co.uk	- Roland Chavasse, MMTA
Arbitration@mmta.co.uk	- John Price, Trident Traders
Conference@mmta.co.uk	- David Craik, AMC Group
Contracts@mmta.co.uk	- Steven Munnoch, Avon Metals (to be confirmed)
Lobby@mmta.co.uk	- Charles Swindon, RJH Trading
Marketing@mmta.co.uk	- Gladys Smith, SANAB Ltd
Social@mmta.co.uk	- (to be confirmed)
Strategy@mmta.co.uk	- Michael Ihlenfeld, Hempel Metallurgical (to be confirmed)
Warehousing@mmta.co.uk	- Tom Abrahams, Wogen Resources
Website@mmta.co.uk	- Anthony Lipmann, Lipmann Walton & Co